

5 What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining payment for provision of multiple different services based on predetermined reimbursement rules, comprising the steps of:

receiving a record identifying a service provided to a specific entity;

10 automatically creating a reimbursement record grouping an item identifying said provided service together with an item identifying an other service provided to said specific entity based on predetermined service record allocation rules; and

15 calculating a reimbursement amount for said identified provided service and said other service provided to said specific entity based on a reimbursement contract.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein

20 said step of automatically creating a reimbursement record comprises creating a reimbursement record without manual intervention from received records identifying different types of services provided to said specific entity on separate occasions.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein

25 said different types of services comprise an outpatient service and an inpatient service.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein

30 said predetermined service record allocation rules comprise at least one of, (a) rules determining whether said provided service as well as said other service qualify for reimbursement under at least one reimbursement contract, and (b) rules in a reimbursement contract.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein

35 said reimbursement contract comprises a healthcare policy covering said specific entity and said specific entity comprises a patient.

6. A method according to claim 1 implemented as a program of instructions contained on a storage medium and executable by a machine.

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7. A user interface supporting a method for determining payment for provision of multiple different services based on predetermined reimbursement rules, comprising the steps of:

generating a first user selectable menu icon for initiating display of a reimbursement record, said reimbursement record showing

a group of items including an item identifying a service provided to a specific entity together with an item identifying an other service provided to said specific entity based on predetermined service record allocation rules; and

calculated reimbursement amounts for said identified provided service and said other service provided to said specific entity based on a reimbursement contract.

8. A method according to claim 7, including the step of

generating a second user selectable menu icon for initiating display of a bill including said reimbursement amount for said provided service and said other service.

9. A method for use in billing for provision of multiple different services based on predetermined reimbursement rules, comprising the steps of:

receiving a record identifying a service provided to an entity;

applying predetermined allocation rules for identifying a reimbursement record indicating a group of services to be billed together on a single bill, said group of services having been provided to said entity;

updating said identified reimbursement record to incorporate a record item representing said identified provided service;

calculating a reimbursement amount for said identified provided service based on predetermined reimbursement rules; and

preparing a bill including said group of services and said identified provided service for communication to a payer.

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5           10. A method according to claim 9, wherein  
said predetermined allocation rules comprise rules for determining said  
identified provided service as well as said group of services qualify for reimbursement  
under at least one of (a) a single reimbursement contract and (b) a common set of  
reimbursement contracts.

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          11. A method according to claim 9, wherein  
said predetermined allocation rules comprise rules in a reimbursement  
contract.

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          12. A method according to claim 9, wherein  
said predetermined allocation rules identify a reimbursement record to  
incorporate a record item representing said identified provided service based on the type  
of said identified provided service.

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          13. A method according to claim 12, wherein  
said type of said identified provided service comprises at least one of, (a)  
an inpatient service, (b) an outpatient service and (c) an emergency service.

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          14. A method according to claim 9, including the step of  
identifying and prioritizing at least one of (a) reimbursement contracts and  
(b) policies, comprising predetermined reimbursement rules and  
selecting said predetermined reimbursement rules from said prioritized  
and identified predetermined reimbursement rules for calculating reimbursement for said  
identified provided service.

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          15. A method according to claim 9, wherein  
said reimbursement record indicates said group of services are  
reimbursable according to rules in a single reimbursement contract and including the step  
of

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determining whether said identified service is also reimbursable according  
to rules in said single reimbursement contract.

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16. A method according to claim 9, wherein  
said specific entity comprises at least one of, (a) a patient, (b) a company,  
(c) an individual person and (d) a group of people and including the step of  
searching for other services also provided to said specific entity.

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17. A method for determining payment for provision of multiple different  
services based on predetermined reimbursement rules, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a record identifying a service provided to a specific entity;  
searching for a record of an additional service provided to said specific  
entity;

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determining whether said identified service as well as said additional  
service provided to said specific entity qualify for reimbursement under a single  
reimbursement contract;

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creating a record indicating said identified service and additional service  
provided to said specific entity qualify for reimbursement under a single reimbursement  
contract; and

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calculating a reimbursement amount for said identified service and  
additional service provided to said specific entity based on said single reimbursement  
contract.

18. A method according to claim 17, including the step of  
preparing a bill including said reimbursement amount for said identified  
service and additional service for communication to a payer.

5 19. A method according to claim 17, wherein  
said specific entity comprises at least one of, (a) a patient, (b) a company,  
(c) an individual person and (d) a group of people.

10 20. A method according to claim 17, including the steps of  
identifying and prioritizing at least one of, (a) reimbursement contracts  
and (b) policies associated with reimbursement contracts, applicable for reimbursing for  
said identified service and additional service and  
selecting said single reimbursement contract from one of, (i) said  
prioritized reimbursement contracts and (ii) said reimbursement contracts associated with  
15 said prioritized policies.

21. A method according to claim 17, including the step of  
searching for other services also provided to said specific entity.

20 22. A method according to claim 17, including the step of  
sorting said identified service and additional service by date service is  
performed.

25 23. A method for determining payment for provision of multiple different  
services based on predetermined reimbursement rules, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a record identifying a service provided to a specific entity;  
searching for a reimbursement record indicating at least one other service  
provided to said specific entity;  
determining whether said identified service as well as said at least one  
30 other service provided to said specific entity qualify for reimbursement under a single  
reimbursement contract;  
updating said reimbursement record to incorporate a record item  
representing said identified provided service in response to determination of said  
qualification; and  
35 calculating a reimbursement amount for said identified service and one  
other service provided to said specific entity based on said single reimbursement contract.

5                   24. A method according to claim 23, including the step of  
                    preparing a bill including said reimbursement amount for said identified  
service and one other service for communication to a payer.

10                   25. A method according to claim 23, wherein  
                    said reimbursement record indicates services provided to said entity within  
a specific period and wherein said updating step comprises  
                    updating said reimbursement record to incorporate said record item  
representing said identified provided service in response to determination said identified  
provided service was provided within said specific period.

15                   26. A method according to claim 23, including the step of  
                    preparing a bill including said reimbursement amount for said identified  
service and one other service for communication to a payer.

20                   27. A method according to claim 23, including the step of  
                    determining said identified provided service as well as said group of  
services qualify for reimbursement under at least one of (a) a single reimbursement  
contract and (b) a common set of reimbursement contracts.

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